



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

### Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

# Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome at Bethlehem. Please visit our website at [www.blcenc.org](http://www.blcenc.org) for more information about the congregation. If you're visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

## CHILDREN

All children are welcome in worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC). There is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. During our 10:30 AM service, after Children's Time, children ages 3 years – 6<sup>th</sup> grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you. Nursery care is available for young children during the 10:30 AM service. Ask the host for more information.

## COMMUNION

We practice **open communion** meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction. The pastor will dip the bread (or gluten-free wafer) into a divided chalice that has white wine or red grape juice. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary.

## PARTICIPATION

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Photo Credit: <https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/the-raising-of-lazarus-from-the-dead/>

# GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We begin in the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us throughout these forty days, and guides us in our pilgrimage. Let us acknowledge before God and one another, our need for repentance and for God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

L: Holy One,

**C: We confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

L: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

“Everlasting God” - Brown

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.  
We will wait upon the Lord. We will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord. We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever  
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

You are the everlasting God. The everlasting God.  
You do not faint; you won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak. You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

## CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

## WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

R: The Word of the Lord.

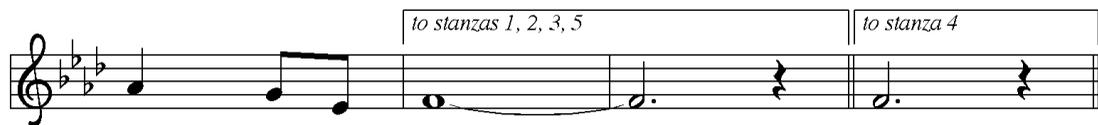
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Shepherd Me, O God – ELW 780



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.



2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you



lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my



spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-45

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

We are one in the Spirit We are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

**Chorus**

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Chorus*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. *Chorus*

All praise to the Father, from who all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. *Chorus*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always, **C: And also with you!**

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Forgiveness" – West

# MEAL

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you,

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts,

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER FROM THE NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
Amen.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

## He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands (4x)

He's got the little tiny baby in His hands (3x)

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got you and me brother in His hands (3x)

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got you and me sister in His hands (3x)

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got ev'rybody here in His hands (3x)

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands (3x)

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the sun and the moon in His hands (3x)

He's got the whole world in His hands

## SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

## SENDING HYMN

“Go Light Your World” – Rice

There is a candle in every soul, some brightly burning, and dark and cold.  
There is a spirit who brings a fire, ignites a candle, and makes his home.

Carry your candle. Run to the darkness. Seek out the helpless, confused and torn. Hold out your candle for all for to see it. Take your candle and go light your world. Take your candle and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he’s tried to light his own candle some other way.  
See now your sister, she’s been robbed and lied to still  
holds a candle without a flame

So carry your candle. Run to the darkness. Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn. Hold out your candle for all for to see it. Take your candle and go light your world. Take your candle and go light your world.

We are a family whose hearts are blazing. So let’s raise our candles and light up the sky. Praying to our Father in the name of Jesus,  
make us a beacon in darkest times.

Carry your candle. Run to the darkness. Seek out the hopeless, deceived and worn. Hold out your candle for all for to see it. Take your candle and go light your world. Take your candle and go light your world

Carry your candle. Run to the darkness. Seek out the hopeless, deceived and worn. Hold out your candle for all for to see it  
Take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle and go light your world

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

# All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, celebrating, and above all — we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin or the color of your hair, regardless of your gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation — you are welcome here.

If you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker after Christ — you have a place here.

If you own, rent, or have nothing at all — you are welcome here.

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities, if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions — you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it — are welcome here.

For these are all of the things that make you who you are: the person God loves. Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. The time is now. Your place is here.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an all-inclusive church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website [www.blcenc.org](http://www.blcenc.org) by clicking on the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, as well as recurring gifts and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas” by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account.

**Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**